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CANTON ARRANGES FOR FUEL,
FORBIDS FREE MARKET IN STRATEGIC METALS

GASOLINE, KEROSENE TO CANTON -- New York Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 8 Aug 50

Canton, 23 July -- Following an announcement from Hong Kong ordering controls on ten types of commodities, three foreign petroleum firms in the colony sealed their warehouses and stopped sales. Trading houses in general are somewhat wary of oil supplies to South China in the future.

To relieve the supply problem, the Canton Branch of the China Petroleum Corporation is shipping a large quantity of gasoline and kerosene from Hankow. This oil, which was still en route yesterday, is being supplied to Central China from the Northeast. The oil is of excellent quality and enjoys a fine market in Hankow. It is estimated that Canton and environs will purchase 500 drums of gasoline and 700 drums of kerosene daily, so that the market supply here will no longer be problematic.

FORBIDS SALE OF TUNGSTEN, ANTIMONY, TIN -- Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao.
30 Jul 50

Canton, 29 July -- The Canton government has forbidden merchants to deal freely in tungsten, antimony, and tin. The Canton Municipal Industry Association and Municipal Chamber of Commerce have been informed by the Communists that these three nonferrous metals are essential war materials.

Effective this date, the free buying and selling of these metals and their ores is not permitted. Producing plants under the jurisdiction of the Canton staff office of the Nonferrous Metals Control Bureau having sufficient reason, arising in production demands, may apply to the office for distribution.

Other metal products still enjoy a free market, with the exception of gold and silver, which have been under the control of the Military Control Commission and which will presumably continue to be restricted from free purchase and sale.

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LU-CHIANG ALUM MINE ACTIVE -- Shanghai Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 31 May 50

An-ch'ing -- The Lu-chiang alum deposits are outstanding in Northern Anhwei mining production and possess an extremely rich mineral deposit. Under the stupid KMT management, marketing routes were constantly obstructed and living conditions among the workers dropped, to a point where maximum daily output was no more than 400,000 catties. But things changed after the liberation and the deposits, with the leadership and support of the people's government, recovered and increased production.

At present, the mine is setting new records, with a daily output of 657,000 catties, an increase of more than one-third above the preliberation production peak. The number of persons employed at the mines has risen to over 3,000 from the former level of around 2,200, including miners, technicians, and transport workers. A skilled worker can earn 16 catties of alum per day, which roughly corresponds to 8,000 or 9,000 yuan. Roasters can earn 25 catties per day. The total production of all the alum mines, processed through 42 plants, can reach 200 or more piculs of alum daily.

Following this rise in production and the opening of transport facilities, the mines have received more orders from commercial firms than they can fill. In the past, the primary market for alum was in Wu-hu, Nanking, Shanghai, Hankow, and Nan-ch'ang. At present, however, the market is in the process of expanding. The authorities handling the matter have speeded up the marketing of alum by establishing a staff office for the transport and marketing of local products within Lu-chiang Hsien. The office will buy alum exclusively, to further the development of the industry.

LIU-CHOU REFINERY REOPENS -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 30 Jul 50

In mid-June, the Liu-chou (Kwangsi) Metal Refinery began making plans to resume operations. After the entire body of workers had labored assiduously for more than 20 days, they completed the factory repairs ahead of schedule on 8 July and production has now been officially rehabilitated.

The refinery was badly damaged by Chiang bandits in May 1949, and the workers fled. In the end of May 1950, the Kwangsi Branch Control Bureau for Non-ferrous Metals was established at Kuei-lin and took over this refinery. The workmen returned to the area and, by mid-June, rehabilitation was begun.

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